REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 04, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Houston.

Present: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Councilman Dwayne Davis, followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following changes: Add R-3 (Add to budget amendment: Decrease Police (Salaries 153-40400) $300,00 and Increase Public Works (144-40540 Supplies Operating) $300,000). Add: R-4 (Tax exemption: Northcrest Baptist Church). Add R-5 (Temporarily amending compensation for City Election Commission and Election Poll Managers). Add R-6 (Resolution amending Resolution #6278 to add the words “Private Placement”). Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated July 21, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16986 ORDER DESIGNATING KDL SOLUTIONS, LLC AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER OF THE ALERRT TRAINING EQUIPMENT FOR THE MERIDIAN TRAINING FACILITY

And, Councilwoman F. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16987 ORDER RESCINDING ORDER NO. 16945 ENTITLED “ORDER DESIGNATING PYE TECH (DBA) CIVIL TECH AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FOR UNIQUE CRIME PREVENTION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT”

And, Councilwoman F. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed,
passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6281 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

And, Councilman Lindemann seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $827,376.50. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of $1,236,984.06. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Total amount approved/passed $2,064,360.56 claims docket dated, July 30, 2020.

Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6282 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO NORTHCREST BAPTIST CHURCH (3510 NORTH HILLS STREET) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 27-31-1(D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

And, Councilman Lindemann seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16988 ORDER TEMPORARILY AMENDING THE CITY’S ELECTION COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGERS COMPENSATION ORDINANCE BY AMENDING SECTION 8-3 & 8-10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR ANY ELECTION OCCURRING FROM JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 (ADDITIONAL PANDEMIC PAY)

And, Councilman Lindemann seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6283 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #6278 ENTITLED “RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2020, OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI (THE “CITY”), FOR SALE TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK IN A TOTAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE MILLION DOLLARS ($12,000,000) IN ONE OR MORE SERIES; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF SAID BOND; PROVIDING CERTAIN COVENANTS OF THE CITY IN CONNECTION WITH SAID BOND AND DIRECTING THE PREPARATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY THEREOF; AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID BOND TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FORM OF, EXECUTION OF AND DELIVERY OF, AS APPLICABLE, AN INDENTURE OF TRUST, THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND THE CITY BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT; APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND A FINAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK SPECIAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2020 (MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECT), IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE MILLION DOLLARS ($12,000,000); AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES” (TO INCLUDE THE WORDS “OR PRIVATE PLACEMENT”)

And, Councilman Davis seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed,
passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston.
Nay: Lindemann.

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland - On all five of the city’s highway exits we have been working with MDOT and Mississippi Power to replace the old lighting with LED Lighting. They will start replacing some of those lights soon. We are also in the process of working out our security cameras throughout the city. They will start next week the electrical maintenance work and the week after that installation and integration of the cameras. They should be done the later part of August.

Julia Norman – Our citywide LED Lighting conversion project – which has been a multi-year process that we have done with Mississippi Power; we are sitting at 85% now complete and they project it will be 100% complete by the end of the year. That’s our city owned lights update to LED conversion. They started with thorough fares and high crime areas identified by the police department and worked their way out from there. The lighting on the interstate is a project we worked very hard to find with The Mississippi Department of Transportation, there will be a full LED conversion and upgrade of the entire system. It changed from a $400,000 project for them to around a $1,000,000 project. However, they are trying to do the project in conjunction with bridge widening and things like that so they don’t have a double request for lighting. So, it makes the project a little longer since the timeline has extended. We requested they address the lights that are currently out of order, and they have been doing that for the last month and they will continue to do that to hold us over the next year while they start that maintenance process.

Councilman Thomas – LED lights are a great improvement. I’m delighted that they are doing it, but I’m frustrated that they are giving it to us. The state continues to require local communities – like the cutting of the highway rights-of-way – it puts an excessive burden on local communities, they continue to do this, now it’s the highway lights.

Mayor Bland – The City’s Rating has improved from Moody’s, we went from an A2 to an A- Rating. We are very pleased with that.

Waste Pro Representatives spoke on the issue of picking up and recycling for the city. The company has found a company in Tennessee to receive recyclables. So, Waste Pro will continue the current schedule of collecting recyclable materials.

President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. Melinda Vinson Northam – spoke
2. Rita Jack – had Attorney Denson speak
3. Martin Jack – had Attorney Denson speak
4. Alfreda L. Parks – spoke
5. Tommy Williams - cancelled

President Houston called for Council comments:
Various comments were made by the Council Members.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned. Sine die.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Clark, Clerk of Council